

and focus on the clarity of Your forgiving word and the soothing comfort of Your eternal voice. We pray with earnest hearts that we will continue to listen to Your good graces, O God, so that Your peace that passes all human understanding will be with us now and until our last day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1439. An act to facilitate the sale of certain land in Tahoe National Forest in the State of California to Placer County, California.

H.R. 1460. An act to allow for election of the Delegate from Guam by other than separate ballot, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1779. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements.

H.R. 2165. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 3862 in the State of Iowa, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2217. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 9248 in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2841. An act to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 434. An act to provide for the conveyance of small parcels of land in the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, to the village of El Rito and the town of Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

H.R. 765. An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 3616. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4101. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3616) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COATS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CLELAND, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4101) "An Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 638. An act to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of private mineral interests within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument mandated by the 1982 Act that established the Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act entitled the "National Discovery Trails Act of 1997".

S. 1132. An act to modify the boundaries of the Bandelier National Monument to include the lands within the headwaters of the Upper Alamo Watershed which drain into the Monument and which are not currently within the jurisdiction of a Federal land management agency, to authorize purchase or donation of those lands, and for other purposes.

S. 1403. An act to amend the National Historic Preservation Act for purposes of establishing a national historic lighthouse preservation program.

S. 1418. An act to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1510. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico.

S. 1683. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over part of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area from the Secretary of

the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the Wenatchee National Forest.

S. 1695. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 1807. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of public domain land in Lake Country, Oregon, to facilitate management of the land, and for other purposes.

S. 2057. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2058. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

S. 2059. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2060. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, and for other purposes.

THE PROPER ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, during this appropriations season here in Congress, we should all remember exactly why we are here and what promises we made to the American people. Those promises are to reduce the size and the scope and the power, especially the power, of the Federal Government over our lives.

Some people believe that government was solely created to correct the wrongs in people's lives. However, I think that is only half right. I look at the government's responsibility from a different perspective.

Over the last 40 years, government has shown that its one-size-fits-all approach rarely if ever solves problems, whether it is here in Washington or in my district in Nevada.

Government provides little opportunity to create wealth, and over the years has become very effective at taxing one person's wealth and giving it to another. Sure, government has a role to play in helping people who are truly in need by providing needed resources to State, county and local governments so they can create targeted local solutions to those in need.

I urge my fellow colleagues to remember that government must never become counterproductive or create unnecessary entitlement programs without proper responsibility.